

THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION

1998 CONVENTION

Information on International Chapters

Referred to Committee on International Chapters (*ad hoc*)

The Executive Council encourages the establishment of Tau Beta Pi alumnus and collegiate chapters throughout the world. The prohibition against international collegiate chapters in the Constitution and Bylaws was removed by the 1996 Convention and ratified by the collegiate chapters in March 1997. The 1997 Convention amended Bylaw IV, Sec. 4.01(e)(3), to resolve the issue of the equivalency of international engineering programs through mutual recognition agreements with A.B.E.T. and through "substantial equivalency" of graduates of specified programs.

The Council requests that this committee address specific issues which may arise if and when a non-U.S. institution petitions for a charter such as: 1) junior/senior status equivalency, 2) the question of languages other than English for business and ritual, 3) economics for the establishment and operation of international chapters, 4) the issue of "National" in National Engineering Honor Society, 5) the topic of timing of communications and chapter reports, 6) cultural sensitivity (e.g., taking the oath), 7) continued dialogue with A.B.E.T., with possibility of a liaison officer, and 8) the changes that may have to be made to the Constitution and Bylaws to include international chapters.

The 1996 Convention set criteria to handle these specific concerns and issues:

- 1) The high standards of the Association must be maintained.
- 2) Permitting international collegiate chapters should offer unmistakable, clear benefit to the Society; we should not expand just for the sake of expansion.
- 3) Expansion should include a uniform standard with which to evaluate chapters in order to maintain fairness.

During your deliberations, the Council asks that you keep in mind that the management of the Association would be simplified if English remain the "official language" for all communications and publications, as is done now with the blessings of the Puerto Rico Alpha Chapter. Similarly, all financial transactions should be defined and take place in U.S. dollars, because the fee charged now by a bank to convert currency/checks into U.S. dollars is \$25 per transaction.

The Council further requests that any other issues be brought to the attention of, and documentation of the deliberations and recommendations of the committee be given to, the Council and the Secretary-Treasurer.